



COLLECTIONS SECURITY

December Webinar

Marie Desrochers

Utah Division of Arts and Museums

December 8, 2022

11 am - 1 pm



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES



UTAHHUMANITIES
Ideas in Action



Utah Division of
Arts & Museums

PROGRAM OVERVIEW: Year at a Glance

~~1. ACCESS AND ARTIFACT HANDLING~~

JANUARY
FEBRUARY
MARCH

Workshop
(pt A & B)
1. Webinar
2. Webinar
3. Webinar

~~2. PRESERVATION IN STORAGE AND DISPLAY~~

APRIL
MAY
JUNE

Workshop
(pt A & B)
1. Webinar
2. Webinar
3. Webinar



~~3. ENVIRONMENT AND BUILDING SYSTEMS~~

JULY
AUGUST
SEPTEMBER

Workshop
(pt A & B)
1. Webinar
2. Webinar
3. Webinar

~~4. RISK MANAGEMENT, EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & DISASTER RESPONSE~~

OCTOBER
NOVEMBER
DECEMBER

Workshop
(pt A & B)
1. Webinar
2. Webinar
3. Webinar

LOOKING TO 2023 UCP PROGRAMMING

Check out our website
and our current
“at-a-glance” guide to
2023 programming!



Utah Collections Preservation Schedule 2023



The Utah Collections Preservation Program supports **comprehensive preservation training** for collections stewards through quarterly programming.

Each quarter includes 3 free webinars, a two-part in-person workshop, preservation assessments, and the focused training of Collections Preservation Team members.

REGISTER HERE



Scan with your phone or visit
www.artsandmuseums.utah.gov/utah-collections-preservation



Workshops are **in-person, full-day events**, and occur in two parts.

Please note when registering that you will be expected to attend both Part A and Part B. Registration fees covers **both parts** of the workshop.

Registration is \$10 to cover materials.

Access and Artifact Handling	SPRING 2023	
Access and Artifact Handling	January 5, 2023	Workshop 1a, Edge of the Cedars, Blanding
	January 19, 2023	Webinar 1
	February 2, 2023	Workshop 1b, Grand County Library, Moab
	February 16, 2023	Webinar 2
	March 16, 2023	Webinar 3
Preservation in Storage and Display	SUMMER 2023	
Preservation in Storage and Display	April 6, 2023	Workshop 1a, John Wesley Powell Museum, Green River
	April 20, 2023	Webinar 1
	May 18, 2023	Webinar 2
	May 4, 2023	Workshop 1b, Emery County Archives, Castle Dale
	June 15, 2023	Webinar 3
Environment and Building Systems	FALL 2023	
Environment and Building Systems	July 6, 2023	Workshop 1a, USU East Prehistoric Museum, Price
	July 20, 2023	Webinar 1
	August 3, 2023	Workshop 1b, Helper Auditorium, Helper
	August 17, 2023	Webinar 2
	September 21, 2023	Webinar 3
Risk Management, Emergency Preparedness & Disaster Response	WINTER 2023	
Risk Management, Emergency Preparedness & Disaster Response	October 5, 2023	Workshop 1a, Canyon Country Discovery Center, Monticello
	October 19, 2023	Webinar 1
	November 16, 2023	Webinar 2
	November 2, 2023	Workshop 1b, USU Eastern, Price
	December 21, 2023	Webinar 3

Scholarships available! to offset costs associated with travel to and from each workshop.




LOOKING TO 2023 UCP PROGRAMMING

Utah Collections Preservation Schedule 2023

Workshop 1 pt a & b

January 5, 2023

Pt a Edge of the Cedars,
Blanding

*January 19 Webinar 1 on
Digitization*

February 16, 2023

Pt b Grand County
Library, Moab

*February 16 Webinar 2 on Object
Handling*

*March 16, Webinar 3 on
Collections Move*



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GOALS

Gain a better
understanding of
Key Themes...



Key Themes

- Collections security risks
- Case studies illustrate complex security challenges
- Learn strategies for preservation through collections security practices
- Consider the importance of policies and procedures

INTRODUCTIONS

Please share the
following:

Your name, where you
work, and your role



A member of the Leopold Museum's security staff restraining a protester after an attack on Gustav Klimt's "Death and Life" on Nov. 15.

Credit...Letzte Generation Oesterreich, via Associated Press

INTRODUCTION TO COLLECTIONS SECURITY

WHAT DOES COLLECTIONS SECURITY MEAN?



Greyfriars Bobby (a bronze public art statue in Edinburgh) is damaged because tourists rub his nose

Less extreme to more extreme

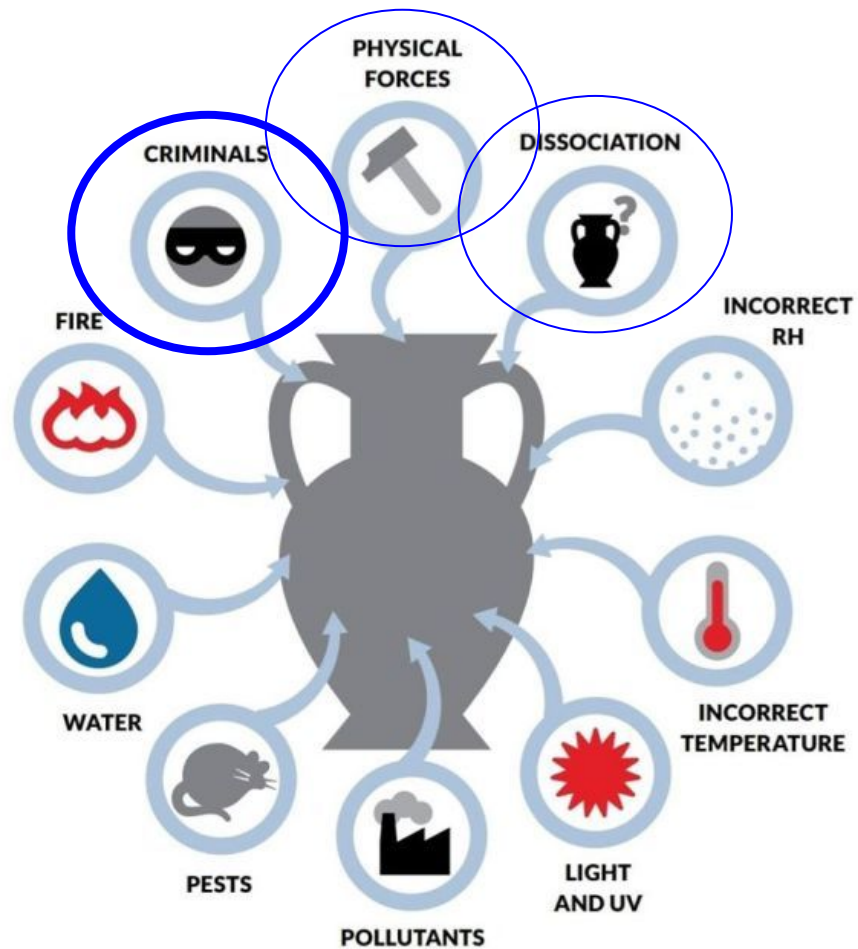
30 Years Later, The Gardner Heist's Emotional Toll Endures



The empty frame of Vermeer's "The Concert" in the Dutch Room of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. (Jesse Costa/WBUR)

Greatest Western art theft in recent memory- theft of 13 major works of art from Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum- estimated total loss of \$500 million

SECURITY AND AGENTS OF DETERIORATION



HOW WE TALK ABOUT THEFT AND VANDALISM MATTERS

The British Museum- one of the world's greatest institutions of Museums "Best Practices"



Image: Conde Nast

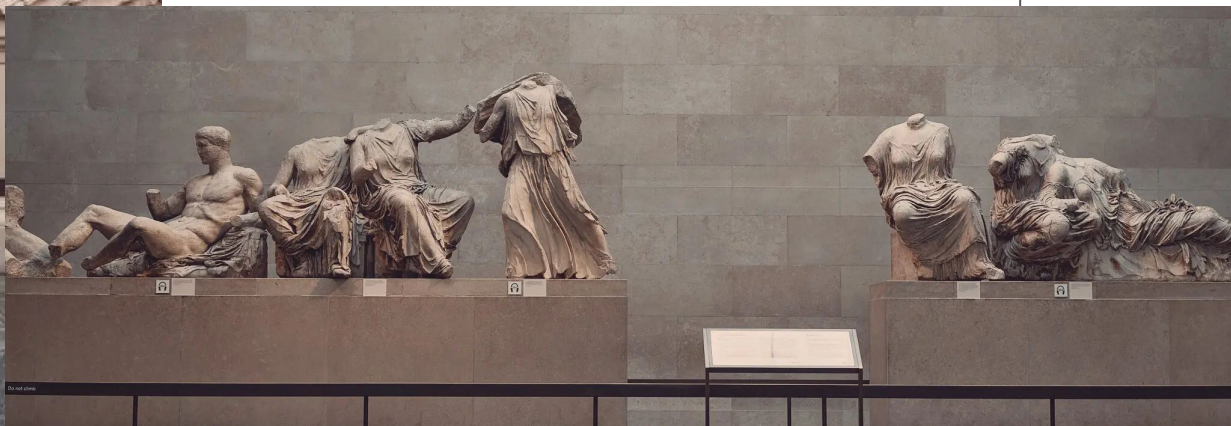
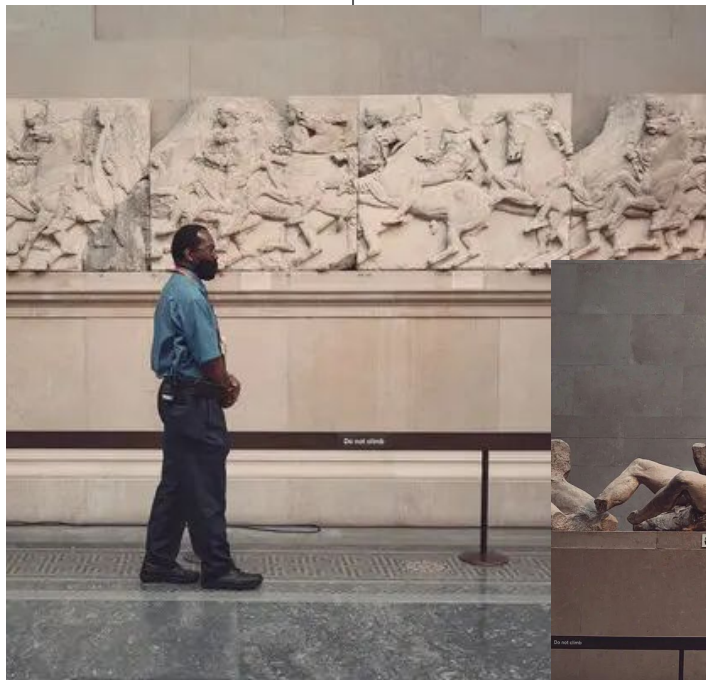
HOW WE TALK ABOUT THEFT AND VANDALISM MATTERS

ART & DESIGN

The New York Times

As Europe Returns Artifacts, Britain Stays Silent

The Parthenon Marbles in London are likely the world's most famous disputed museum items. Yet the British government says the sculptures' fate isn't its concern.

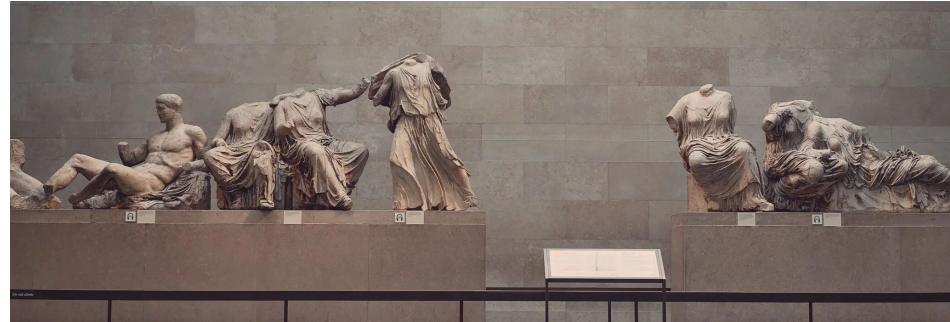


The Parthenon Marbles at the British Museum in 2020. Greece's government says the sculptures, which returned to public view this month, should be sent back to Athens. Tom Jamieson for The New York Times

HOW WE TALK ABOUT THEFT AND VANDALISM MATTERS



Image: Vision Roma



HOW WE TALK ABOUT THEFT AND VANDALISM MATTERS

Benin Bronzes: Nigeria hails 'great day' as London museum signs over looted objects

4 days ago



HORNIMAN MUSEUM AND GARDENS

A square bronze pendant or ornament, one of the objects the museum says was looted from Benin City by British soldiers in 1897

By Katie Razzall

Culture editor

A trove of looted artifacts, five years after BLM raids in Utah

Years after defendants surrendered their collections, the feds are caring for artifacts bound for repatriation with tribes.



Al Hartmann | The Salt Lake Tribune Fine polychrome water laddle is among the hundreds of artifacts the BLM seized in the Blandi

[View Caption »](#)

HOW WE TALK ABOUT THEFT AND VANDALISM MATTERS



Kent Monkman, *Resurgence of the People*, 2019. From the series *mistikôsiwak (Wooden Boat People)*. Acrylic on canvas, 132 x 264 in. The Metropolitan Museum of Art., New York. Purchase, Donald R. Sobe Foundation CAF Canada Project Gift, 2020

VANDALISM AND THEFT



Shouse California Law Group

VANDALISM AND PROTEST



MSNBC

Two protesters from the climate activist group, 'Just Stop Oil' who threw Heinz Tomato soup at Vincent Van Gogh's 1888 painting 'Sunflowers' at the National Gallery in London on Oct. 14 2022. Courtesy Just Stop Oil / EPA

VANDALISM AND PROTEST



Robert E. Lee statue Richmond, Va.AP
PHOTO/JACQUELINE LARMA

DISCUSSION

What instances of vandalism or theft have you experienced in your institution? What was the greater context of those incidents?

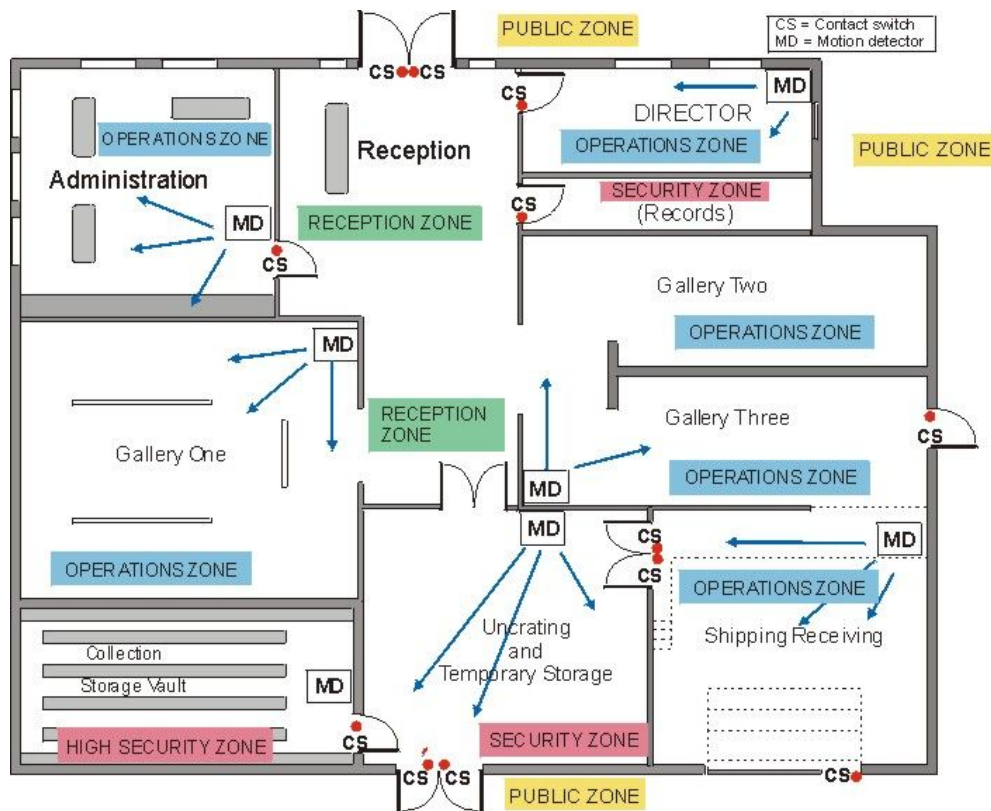


STRATEGIES FOR MITIGATION & RESPONSE

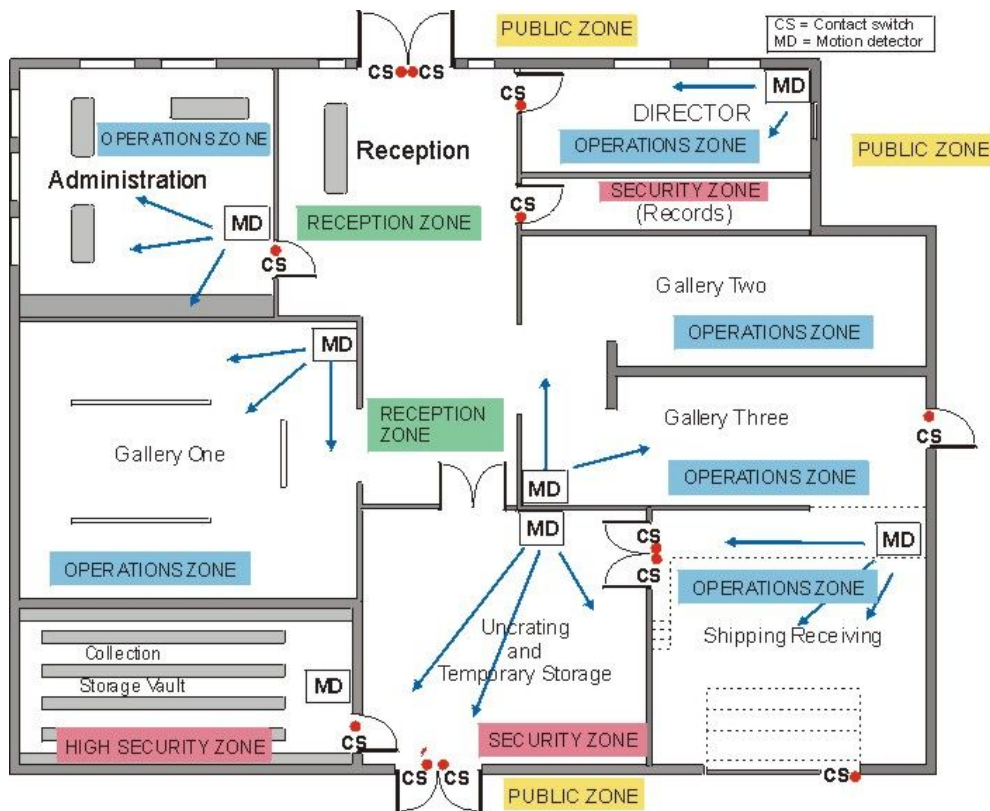
CONTROL STRATEGY: PROTECT, DETECT, RESPONSE, AND RECOVER

1. PROTECT

Big Picture- thinking about building zones



CONTROL STRATEGY: PROTECT, DETECT, RESPONSE, AND RECOVER



1. PROTECT

Security zoning

Public Zone

- Exterior concourse
- Public parking
- Foyer, lobby
- Cafeteria
- Shops
- Auditorium/ lecture rooms

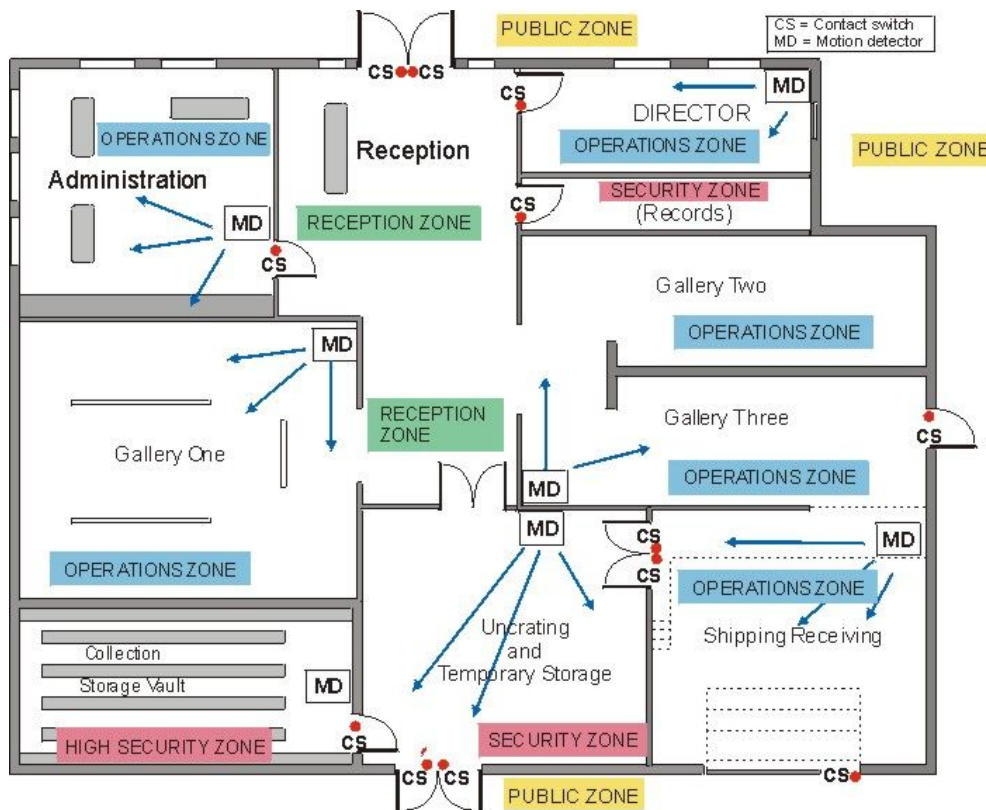
Reception Zone

- Visitors, staff, and vehicle entrances

Operations Zone

- Exhibition areas, study rooms
- Boardroom, administration, general office areas
- Collection packing and unpacking areas
- Loading bay: shipping and receiving
- Mailrooms
- Workshops, preparation area
- Telephone and hydro room
- Maintenance rooms, furnace/ environmental control room

CONTROL STRATEGY: PROTECT, DETECT, RESPONSE, AND RECOVER



1. PROTECT

Security Zone

- Conservation laboratories
- Managerial offices that display collection items
- Photographic studio
- Overnight collection storage
- Money, records, or any attractive item storage

High-Security Zone

- Permanent and temporary storage vault
- Security operations control room
- Server room

CONTROL STRATEGY: PROTECT, DETECT, RESPONSE, AND RECOVER

1. PROTECT



CONTROL STRATEGY: PROTECT, DETECT, RESPONSE, AND RECOVER



1. PROTECT



Benchmark security screws and screwdriver (University products)

CONTROL STRATEGY: PROTECT, DETECT, RESPONSE, AND RECOVER



Displays2go

1. PROTECT



Exhibit case by State History at the Utah Capitol

CONTROL STRATEGY: PROTECT, DETECT, RESPONSE, AND RECOVER

1. PROTECT



Moab Museum



Uintah County Heritage Museum

CONTROL STRATEGY: PROTECT, DETECT, RESPONSE, AND RECOVER

PLEASE DO
NOT TOUCH

1. PROTECT



Denver Art Museum

HUMAN BEHAVIORAL MODIFICATION



"Black Refractions: Highlights from The Studio Museum in Harlem" exhibition at the UMFA.
Photo: Utah Museum of Fine Arts

HUMAN BEHAVIORAL MODIFICATION



The 2017 survey exhibition Roni Horn in the Gallery explored the artist's (b. 1955) interest in intermingling material and context, seen here with her installation of *Water Double*, v.3, 2013–2015, which incorporates the surrounding light, architecture, water court, and viewer into the work itself. The sculpture is considered by the artist to be one of her greatest achievements—it was long her goal to achieve a neutral “water double,” a solid cast glass duo in black and white. Years of research and experimenting led to the fabrication of the clear glass and matte black forms on view. Kmage courtesy of the Glenstone Museum

RISK ASSESSMENT

RISK EVALUATION AND PLANNING PROGRAM			
Risk Prioritization Worksheet: Key			
Likelihood of Occurrence	Severity of Damage	Risk Rating	Comments
1 = Not likely	1 = No damage	Higher the number, higher the risk	Note information about previous occurrences, response times, or additional insights.
2 = Possible	2 = Slight (minor damage requiring in-house clean-up or repair; operations continue to function; small monetary investment)	Ratings of 16-25 will fill with red	
3 = Quite possible		Ratings of 6-15 will fill with yellow	
4 = Likely	3 = Moderate (damage requiring extra labor; operations may need to be suspended; moderate monetary investment to return to regular operations)	Ratings of 1-5 will fill with green	
5 = Very likely	4 = Severe (damage requiring outside services and vendors; temporary suspension of operations; significant monetary investment)		
	5 = Very severe (damage resulting in total loss; indefinite closure of institution)		



RISK EVALUATION AND PLANNING PROGRAM

Risk Prioritization Worksheet

HAZARDS	Likelihood of Occurrence (1-5)	multiplied by	Severity of Damage (1-5)	equals	Risk Rating	Comments
1. EXTERIOR: Natural disasters						
1a. earthquake		X		equals	0	
1b. flooding below ground level or below the water table		X		equals	0	
1c. flash flood		X		equals	0	
1d. hail		X		equals	0	
1e. heavy snow		X		equals	0	
1f. high winds		X		equals	0	
1g. hurricane		X		equals	0	
1h. ice		X		equals	0	
1i. land/mud slide		X		equals	0	
1j. lightning strike		X		equals	0	
1k. loss of water supply for firefighting		X		equals	0	
1l. major flooding		X		equals	0	
1m. minor flooding		X		equals	0	
1n. terrain fire		X		equals	0	
1o. tidal or other unusual water phenomena		X		equals	0	
1p. tornado		X		equals	0	
1q. volcanic activity		X		equals	0	
1r. wind damage from flying debris		X		equals	0	
1s. wind damage from trees		X		equals	0	
2. EXTERIOR: Incidents in the surrounding community						
2a. frequent or major interruption of utility services (power, gas, water, phone, cable)		X		equals	0	
2b. damages from a fire, explosion, or chemical spill at an adjacent or nearby facility		X			0	

CONTROL STRATEGY: PROTECT, DETECT, RESPONSE, AND RECOVER

2. DETECT

Early detection can
prevent major adverse
outcomes of a security
breach or event




Museum Guards are on the front lines

<https://universe.byu.edu/2016/01/31/museum-of-art-opts-for-student-security-guards-not-plexiglas1/>

CONTROL STRATEGY: PROTECT, DETECT, RESPONSE, AND RECOVER


2. DETECT


Early detection can prevent major adverse outcomes of a security breach or event



Google - Nest Cam Battery - Snow
Model: GA01317-US SKU: 6473262
★★★★☆ (1,070)
Get it today
📦 **Pickup:** Available today at South Salt Lake City
[See all pickup locations](#)
🚚 **FREE Shipping:** Get it by tomorrow
[See all shipping options for 84101](#)
🔧 **Installation:** Unable to provide a date right now
More installation info is available in checkout
☐ Compare ☐ Save

\$129.99
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Featured from our brands
Blink Mini – Compact indoor plug-in smart security camera, 1080p HD video, night vision, motion detection, two-way audio, easy set up, Works with Alexa – 3 cameras (White)
★★★★☆ ~ 223,065
\$44⁹⁹ ~~\$84.99~~
 Works with Alexa ~

CONTROL STRATEGY: PROTECT, DETECT, RESPONSE, AND RECOVER

2. DETECT

Early detection can prevent major adverse outcomes of a security breach or event



Photo by Ian Dagnall, Alamy Stock Photo

MUSEUMS AND CULTURAL PROPERTIES

PHYSICAL AND OPERATIONAL SECURITY

SURVEILLANCE AND COUNTER-SURVEILLANCE

Intelligent Surveillance Insights Protect Museum's Art Collection

By Sara Mosqueda | 01 October 2019 | Print Issue: October 2019

“Communication and coordination with the DIA’s curatorial, conservation, and collection management staffs helped shape the finished surveillance system. ‘One of the things that we’re looking at is either highly trafficked areas or exceptionally vulnerable objects,’ Drewry says. The other departments helped security understand why certain pieces were more vulnerable than others—such as the fragility of the materials or a piece’s placement on a mount that could be bumped into. Now video-verified alerts can help security personnel mitigate the risk of damage to those works.” (Security Management)

CONTROL STRATEGY: PROTECT, DETECT, RESPONSE, AND RECOVER

3. RESPONSE



Consider these guards the army grunts of the art world. They stand on the front lines of a battle to keep our cultural heritage accessible and safe. Top left, Matt Roth for The New York Times; bottom left, Vanessa Vick for The New York Times; right, Karsten Moran for The New York Times

CONTROL STRATEGY: PROTECT, DETECT, RESPONSE, AND RECOVER

4. RECOVER

We are always learning and adjusting, especially after significant events



St. Louis, MO Gov

DISASTER PLANNING (SECURITY PLANNING)

Here are steps in the development of a disaster preparedness/emergency response plan:

1. Assemble the team.
 - a. Team for planning
 - b. Team for response



DISASTER PLANNING (SECURITY PLANNING)

Here are steps in the development of a disaster preparedness/emergency response plan:

1. Assemble the team.
2. Assess and document risks and hazards.
3. Establish preventative measures.
4. Prepare for disaster.
5. Take risk management measures.

RISK EVALUATION AND PLANNING PROGRAM						
Risk Prioritization Worksheet						
HAZARDS	Likelihood of Occurrence (1-5)	multiplied by	Severity of Damage (1-5)	equals	Risk Rating	Comments
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DISASTER PLANNING

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5. Take risk management measures.
6. Outline emergency responses, establish the chain of command, and appoint emergency coordinator(s).

Risk Evaluation and Planning Program

Suggested Contents of a Basic Emergency Plan That Addresses Collections

- A. Staff and Emergency Contact Information
 - *Use tab 1 from the *Field Guide to Emergency Response*
 - a. Fire
 - b. Police
 - c. Medical
 - d. Staff contact information with planning and response duties
- B. Insurance, Recovery Vendor, and Supply Information
 - *Use tab 3 from the *Field Guide to Emergency Response*
 - a. Insurance and recovery vendor contact information (local and national options)
 - b. Supply list with location information or method of procurement
- C. Preparedness and Response Instructions
 - a. Procedures for top-rated risks, including:
 - i. if applicable, what to do in preparation for an emergency
 - ii. first steps to take upon discovery of the situation
 - iii. how to assess the situation
 - iv. response options
 - b. Utility shut-off locations and instructions (on a floor plan if possible) (Use tab 2 from the *Field Guide to Emergency Response*)
 - c. Evacuation procedures (for people and collections)
 - d. Shelter-in-place procedures (for people and collections)
- D. Collections Priorities
 - *Use tab 2 from the *Field Guide to Emergency Response*
 - a. Removal and salvage priorities (on a floor plan if possible)
- E. Communications
 - a. Communication with and among response team members
 - b. Dealing with the press and the public
- F. Policy for Updating, Distributing, and Practicing the Plan
 - a. Outline under what circumstances and/or what timeline the plan should be reviewed
 - b. List who should receive a copy of the plan, including staff members, the local fire department, emergency management agency, and recovery contractors
- G. Appendices
 - a. Collections salvage techniques (existing literature can be used)
 - b. Consultant and vendor contracts
 - c. Forms (such as Field Guide tabs)

DISASTER PLANNING

Here are steps in the development of a disaster preparedness/emergency response plan:

1. Assemble the team.
2. Assess and document risks and hazards.
3. Establish preventative measures.
4. Prepare for disaster.
5. Take risk management measures.
6. Outline emergency responses, establish the chain of command, and appoint emergency coordinator(s).
7. Address the needs of the collections. Develop measures to protect the collections before a disaster and address their needs post-disaster.

C. Preparedness and Response Instructions

- a. Procedures for top-rated risks, including:
 - i. if applicable, what to do in preparation for an emergency
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 - iii. how to assess the situation
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- c. Evacuation procedures (for people and collections)
- d. Shelter-in-place procedures (for people and collections)

D. Collections Priorities

**Use tab 2 from the Field Guide to Emergency Response*

- a. Removal and salvage priorities (on a floor plan if possible)

E. Communications

- a. Communication with and among response team members
- b. Dealing with the press and the public

DISASTER PLANNING

Here are steps in the development of a disaster preparedness/emergency response plan:

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3. Establish preventative measures.
4. Prepare for disaster.
5. Take risk management measures.
6. Outline emergency responses, establish the chain of command, and appoint emergency coordinator(s).
7. Address the needs of the collections. Develop measures to protect the collections before a disaster and address their needs post-disaster.
8. Review and revise the plan regularly.



St. Louis, MO Gov

WHAT DOES A THIEF OR VANDAL LOOK LIKE?



Prisons Today: Questions in the Age of Mass Incarceration, a new exhibit at Eastern State Penitentiary

WHAT DOES A THIEF OR VANDAL LOOK LIKE?

The New York Times

How Do You Tell a Vandal From a Visitor? Art Museums Are Struggling.

It's not easy to stop a determined climate protester, museum directors say, even as they fear for their masterpieces.



Give this article



A member of the Leopold Museum's security staff restraining a protester after an attack on Gustav Klimt's "Death and Life" on Nov. 15. Letzte Generation Oesterreich, via Associated Press

PROFILING: WHAT WE'RE NOT GOING TO DO

British Museum 'apologises to Muslim family after' staff member 'calls their 6-year-old daughter a security risk'

The incident was reported just five days before a separate complaint was made about a security guard asking Muslim visitors where they were hiding their 'bomb'

NEWS By [Ertan Karpazli](#) Reporter

13:42, 8 OCT 2022 | UPDATED 16:17, 8 OCT 2022

Bookmark



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The British Museum said the staff member responsible was given an 'outcome' after the incident (image: Manemagnum/Getty)

MOST READ

1



EastEnders fans 'figure out' Linda Carter's future as they spot clue on Kellie Bright's Instagram

2



Beautiful seaside resort loved by Londoners a 'ghost town' as rich second home owners abandon it for the winter

3



South London's 'mini Paris' where so many wealthy young people are moving in locals are struggling to afford to live there any more



WHAT DOES A THIEF OR VANDAL LOOK LIKE?

“‘About 90 percent of art thefts from museums are internal’, said FBI special agent Robert Wittman, who spoke at this year’s National Conference on Cultural Property Protection sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution.

There are ways to reduce the insider risk. ‘Look at your staff, your procedures for bringing researchers and experts in, making sure that when they leave, you know what they’re taking with them,’ cautioned Wittman, who has been the Bureau’s main investigator on art crime for the past 19 years.”

Susan Mandel, “Insider Theft, Fires, and Vandals Top List of Museum Concerns” in Security Management 6/1/2008;
<https://www.asisonline.org/security-management-magazine/articles/2008/06/insider-theft-fires-and-vandals-top-list-of-museum-concerns/>

STRATEGIES FOR PROTECTING COLLECTIONS: KEEPING IT IMPERSONAL

Components of a comprehensive collections policy

1. Mission, Vision, History of Collections (Statement of Purpose)
2. Statement of Authority
3. Scope of Collections
4. Categories of Collections
5. Acquisitions/Accessioning
6. Deaccessioning/Removal from the Collection
7. Loans/Lending and Borrowing
8. Care and Conservation, Risk Management, Access
9. Code of Ethics, Ethical Standards

STRATEGIES FOR PROTECTING COLLECTIONS: KEEPING IT IMPERSONAL



Concept	Policy	Procedure
Principles	General guidelines that regulate the institution's activities	Detailed method for performing an action
	Standard for exercising good judgment	Steps for implementing a standard as a professional practice
	Guidelines for decision-making	Protocol to follow when implementing the policy
Functions	Who, what, why	How
	Rule, standard, philosophy, guideline	Instruction, protocol, steps

STRATEGIES FOR PROTECTING COLLECTIONS: KEEPING IT IMPERSONAL

Concept	Policy	Procedure
Purpose	Broad philosophical statement; justification for decisions	Succinct directions for accomplishing a specific task
	What the rule is; why the rule exists; justification for the rule	Action steps necessary for implementing the rule
Nature Scope and Content	When it applies	Conditions for action and alternatives
	Whom it covers	Procedural function
	How to get help or interpretation	Instruction, protocol, steps, Direction
	Responsibility and Enforcement	Warnings; consequences



STRATEGIES FOR PROTECTING COLLECTIONS: KEEPING IT IMPERSONAL

Concept	Policy	Procedure
Purpose	Broad philosophical statement; justification for decisions	Succinct directions for accomplishing a specific task
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Nature Scope and Content	When it applies	Conditions for action and alternatives
	Whom it covers	Procedural function
	How to get help or interpretation	Instruction, protocol, steps, Direction
	Responsibility and Enforcement	Warnings; consequences



STRATEGIES FOR PROTECTING COLLECTIONS: ACCESS POLICIES

Category	Collection Use
Academic researchers	Research access, may include requests for destructive sampling.
Commercial Users	Photographers, architects, filmmakers, writers, etc. may be charged access fee.
Donors	May request access to determine that collections are being cared for and used appropriately.
Students	Access through exhibits, tours, educational programs on site.
General Public	Main access is through exhibitions, tours or by special request.
Hobbyists	Special request for particular objects or documentation.
Staff	Research access, use of collections and collection information for exhibits and public programs, documentation of collections care, funding narratives.
Teachers	Special access to prepare for student tours or educational programs on-site or in the classroom.



BREAK (5 Minutes)



CASE STUDIES

CASE STUDY A LOCAL EXAMPLE: State History Collections



Fox 13

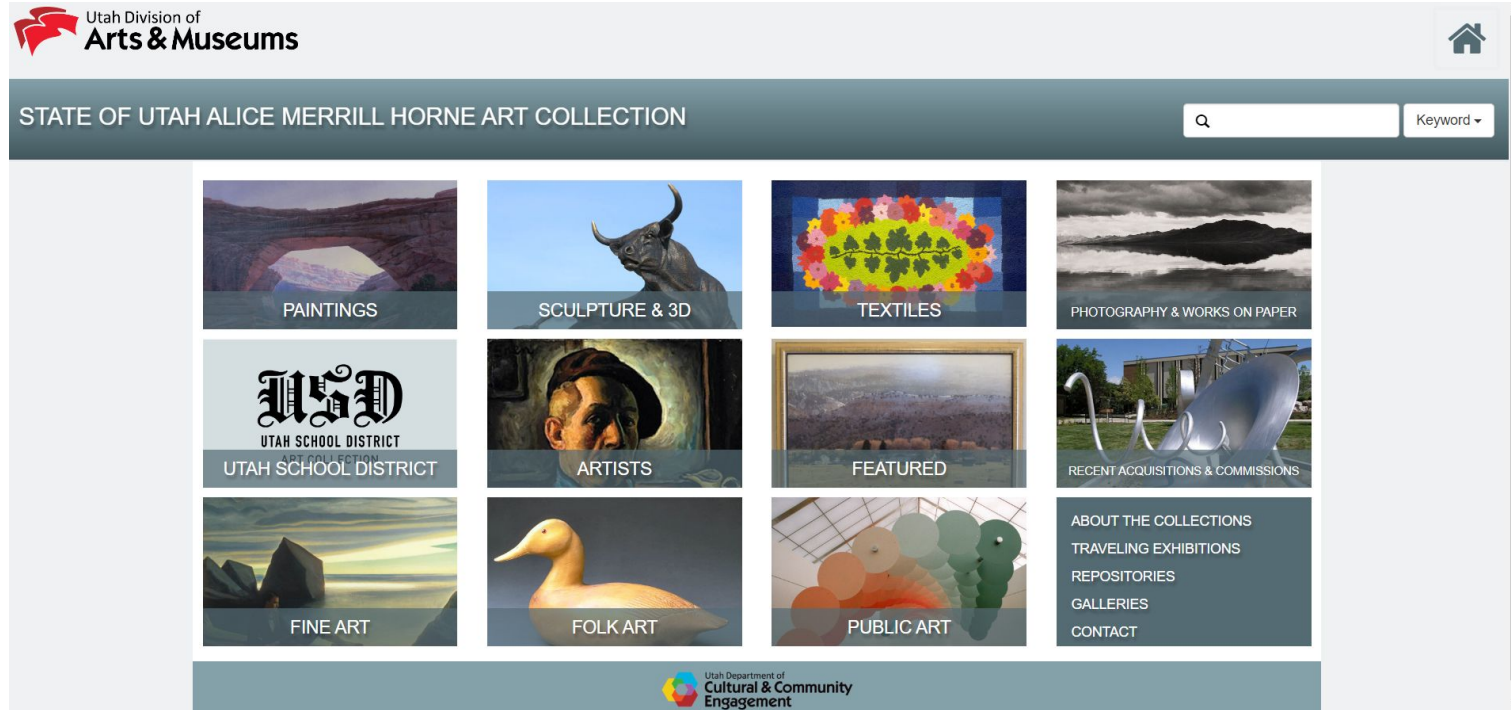
Historic Rio Grande Train Station in Salt Lake City which, until recently, housed the State History Collections

CASE STUDY A LOCAL EXAMPLE: State History Collections

1. Can you set the scene for us? What security measures are in place to ensure object protection and preservation?
2. What has been the greatest security threat or incident at this site?
3. Can you explain what happened? What were the losses or damage to collections?
4. What was the response to the incident?
5. What were the long term outcomes or impacts of this event?
6. What is your role in all of this?
7. What do you wish had been or could be different going forward?



CASE STUDY A LOCAL EXAMPLE: State Art Collection



CASE STUDY A LOCAL EXAMPLE: State History Collections

1. Can you set the scene for us? What security measures are in place to ensure object protection and preservation?
2. What has been the greatest security threat or incident at this site?
3. Can you explain what happened? What were the losses or damage to collections?
4. What was the response to the incident?
5. What were the long term outcomes or impacts of this event?
6. What is your role in all of this?
7. What do you wish had been or could be different going forward?



SCENARIO 1

You are the second and newest staff member at your small regional museum. The long-time director (your supervisor and only full-time coworker) feels a deep personal connection to the collection, and they actually collect historic artifacts themselves. The director sometimes brings in their own collections artifacts to “loan” to the museum, but it is unclear what belongs to them and what belongs to the institution.



SCENARIO 2

The country is going through a period of civil unrest due to social justice issues rooted in racism and colonialism. Your institution has become a likely target due to the history it interprets- primarily that of historical colonists. You have been tipped off by local law enforcement of credible threats of potential vandalism and destruction of property in upcoming street protests.



SCENARIO 2

Your museum is trying to reach new audiences, and is participating in a program to allow families to visit local museums for free. On this “free day” your institution is overwhelmed by more visitors than you have ever experienced in a single day in the history of your institution, and they are a population who does not normally frequent museums. Your docents are overwhelmed and your collections staff is resentful and concerned about the security and preservation of collections first.



SUMMARY

- Collections security, against the threats of theft and vandalism, should be considered by all institutions.
- Risk assessment is the first step in determining what policies and procedures are needed to deter and detect theft.
- While high tech strategies are available, most theft comes down to opportunity, and very often it occurs internally.
- Approaching the management of collections security and risks with a human approach and perspective is usually the best strategy.



Thank you!

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<https://artsandmuseums.utah.gov/utah-collections-preservation/>

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Utah Division of
Arts & Museums